



# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE?



A power outage can begin as an inconvenience and quickly evolve into a large-scale event. A little preparation can go a long way to keep you and your family safe and comfortable.

## **THREE WAYS TO PREPARE**

### **Have a Kit Ready**

Make a pack that will last for at least seven days. For tips on what you need, visit: [seattle.gov/emergency-management/prepare/prepare-yourself](http://seattle.gov/emergency-management/prepare/prepare-yourself).

### **Have a Plan**

Know how to contact your loved ones and decide on a meeting point. Have a list of contacts that is easily accessible. Identify an individual who lives out of the area who can act as your point of contact.

### **Carry Cash**

Credit card machines or ATMs may not work in an outage. Physical currency will ensure that you can purchase in a pinch.

## **PROTECT YOURSELF DURING A POWER OUTAGE\***



Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.



Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.



Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.



Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.



Use alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or power dependent medical devices.



If safe, go to an alternate location for heating or cooling.



Check on neighbors.

*\*FEMA V-1008/May 2018*

### **Get Outage Updates At:**

Twitter: @SEACityLight  
Facebook: [facebook.com/SeattleCityLight](https://facebook.com/SeattleCityLight)  
Outage map: [seattle.gov/light/outage](http://seattle.gov/light/outage)  
Report an outage: (206) 684-3000

[seattle.gov/light](http://seattle.gov/light)



YouTube

### **Other Resources:**

Emergency: Dial 911  
Non-Emergency Police: (206) 625-5011  
Non-Emergency Fire: (206) 386-1400  
Seattle Office of Emergency Management Twitter: @OEMSeattle  
Sign up for Alert Seattle at [Alert.Seattle.gov](http://Alert.Seattle.gov).

## **POWER OUTAGE: BEFORE, DURING & AFTER**

### **1 Before an Outage**

Have a first-aid kit and enough water, nonperishable food, flashlights and blankets for every household member. Pets included!

Do you use medical devices and/or refrigerated medicines? Talk to your medical provider and develop a plan on how to take care of these needs during an outage. For more information, visit: [seattle.gov/light/LifeSupport](https://seattle.gov/light/LifeSupport).

Keep batteries and alternative power sources nearby.

Place an appliance thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer. Determine if food is safe for consumption based on its temperature: Refrigerator <40°F; Freezer <0°F.

Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home; have battery backups.

Keep cell phones and electronics charged and gas tanks full.

Have a landline? Determine if it's able to function without electricity. If so, know how long it can last and have enough battery backup to sustain an outage.

Subscribe to local alerts. Track weather reports. Follow local authorities on social media channels for frequent updates.

### **2 During an Outage**

Generators, camp stoves and barbecue grills are dangerous if used inside the home. Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning by keeping them outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows.

Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed to preserve items up to 48 hours.

Power surges can cause damage to your appliances, equipment or electronics when power is restored. Be sure to disconnect your items during the outage.

### **3 When Power is Restored**

Food exposed to temperatures of >40°F for at least two hours or more, can be unsafe. When in doubt, throw it out!

Discard any refrigerated medication that requires refrigeration for more than a day unless the directions read otherwise. Consult a doctor or pharmacist for specific instructions.

**Take Action. Be Prepared.**



For more tips, visit: [seattle.gov/light/sysstat/whenpowerout.asp](https://seattle.gov/light/sysstat/whenpowerout.asp).



**Seattle City Light**

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